Act made by Central Government for Punjab

3376. SHRI GHUFRAN AZAM: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the Acts enacted by the Central Government for the State of Punjab during the last six months;

(b) whether the Committee constituted under Section 3 of State Legislature (Delegation of Powers) Act, 1987 was consulted before enacting these Acts; and

(c) if not, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAY): (a) (i) The Punjab Panchayat Samities and Zila Parishads (Temporary Supersession) second Amendment Bill, 1990.

(ii) The Punjab Agricultural Produce Markets (Amendment) Bill, 1990.

(iii) The Indian Stamp (Punjab Amendment) Bill, 1990.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) As the Administrative Ministries had shown urgency for enactment of the said legislative proposals it was not found practicable to consult the Parliamentary Commitee on Punjab Legislations due to shortage of time.

Purchase of Vessels

3377. SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of vessels which have been purchased by the Private Sector Shipping Companies and what has been the total value of these acquisitions between Ist July, 1988 and 31st July, 1990;

(b) the number of vessels purchased by the Shipping Corporation of India and the total value of these acquisitions betwen Ist July, 1988 and 31st July, 1990; and

(c) whether it is a fact that the Shipping Corporation of India has not purchased atleast 50 per cent of the ships acquired in this period if so, what has been the reasons for this and what steps Government have taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI K. P. UNNIKRISHNAN): (a) During the period Ist July, 1988 to 31st July, 1990, private sector shipping companies have acquired/ordered 45 ships of a total value of Rs. 592 crores approximately.

(b) During the period Ist July, 1988 to 31st July 1990, Shipping Corporation of India have acquired/ ordered 10 vessels of a total value of Rs. 362 crores approximately.

(c) Yes, Sir. Lengthy ship acquisition procedure and the overall foreign exchange situation were the main reasons. Govenment have recently approved a revised ship acquisition procedure for Shipping Corporation of India which is expected to help them to acquire ships more speedily.

ADC Election in Tripura

3378. SHRI NARAYAN KAR: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Prime Minister has since received the on-the-spot study report from a team of M.Ps. on the situation before, after and during the A.D.C. election held on the 8th July, 1990 in Tripura;

(b) if so, what are the main points in this report; and

(c) what is Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The report has generally covered cases of violence against political workers, other persons including women, booth capturing and unlawful acts of rigging the election at places, deficiencies in deployment of security forces, inadequate response from the Administration and cases of subversion of political process.

(c) All these cases need to be fully investigated by the appropriate agencies of the Government. The Government of Tripura have set up a one man Commission of Inquiry headed by a retired Judge of the Guwahati High Court. The matter has been taken up with the State Government to take effective remedial action, investigate the cases and bring the culprits to book. The State Government has been asked to set up a special cell to monitor the progress of these cases.

Union Territory Status for Ladakh

3379. SHRI ATAL BEHARI VAJPAYEE: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been a demand for Union Territory status for Ladakh; if so Government's response thereto; and

(b) whether in the last two years there have been talks between the Ladakhi delegates/deputationists and Government on this issue if so, what was the outcome thereof each time?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAY): (a) A section of the people of Ladakh have been demanding Union Territory status for Ladakh.

(b) The Government of Jammu & Kashmir has intimated that the demand for Union Territory status was withdrawn by the Ladakh Budhist Association in October, 1989, when an accord was signed at Leh between the representatives of Ladakh Budhist Association and State Goevrnment. A meeting regarding their demand was further held at Jammu in January 1990, in which Ladakh Budhist Association demanded a District Hill Council for Leh.

The issue is still under examination of the State Government.

Involvement of Iran and Saudi Arabia in Kashmir Terrorism

3380. SHRI SURESH KALMADI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the involvement of Iran and Saudi Arabia for providing arms and financial assistance to Kashmiri militants to carry their terrorist activties;

(b) if so, the steps taken by Government to dissuade the two countries from interfering in the internal affairs of India; and

(c) the details of the stand taken by these two countries on the present Kashmir problem?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI HARI KISHORE SINGH): (a) and (b) Both Iran and Saudi Arabia have denied that they are involved in providing arms and financial assistance to the terrorists in Kashmir.

(c) Some statements that have emanated from these countries reflect an incorrect appreciation of developments in Jammu and Kashmir.